Batchelder's Flora of Manchester, New Hampshire, and Vicinity reports the species as very rare at Andover, New Hampshire. There is also a report of it from Gill, Massachusetts, in Stone's Flora of Franklin and Hampden Counties.

In Europe it has a fairly wide range throughout the western part of the continent and as far east as the Caucasus. Apparently it frequents the more hilly regions, not getting into the steppe country of Russia. It is reported as growing in the mountain pastures, heaths, moors and sterile places. In Switzerland and Italy it is found in the subalpine regions, through the Apennines, Corsica and Sardinia.

As Waterville is subalpine, and the golf-links have a sterile acid soil, forming a habitat much like that which it frequents in its European home, the colony may become permanently established here. It must have existed for a number of years, if one may judge by the size and vigor of the tufts, but it had been previously overlooked by the writer. This grass (wire-bent or mat-grass) is rather noticeable in appearance, growing in tufts with tough, closely matted culm-bases, fine wiry dark-green leaves a foot or more long, and curious secund spikes with a double row of single-flowered spikelets. The attention of collectors is called to it. Specimens have been deposited in the Gray Herbarium.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

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A DISTINCTION BETWEEN TWO CARICES.— *Carex laxiculmis* Schweinitz and *C. digitalis* Willdenow are well-marked species of sedges which can, as a rule, be easily separated by any one of the half-dozen characters given in the manuals. These diagnostic features are all somewhat variable, however, so that occasional plants are puzzling and nearly connect the two species. The one recognized variety, *C. laxiculmis copulata*, was originally described by Prof. Bailey as *C. digitalis* var. *copulata*, and was treated as a variety of the latter species by Kükenthal in 1909. Any additional mark of distinction between these two species is therefore welcome, particularly if constant. Such a character seems to be found in the nature of the pistillate spikes. In both species there are normally from one to three minute scales at the tip of each pistillate spike; these are usually

empty but, in *C. digitalis*, at least, sometimes contain stamens. With this exception the female spikes of *C. digitalis* are strictly pistillate. In *C. laxiculmis*, however, at least one, usually a majority or all, of the pistillate spikes in each culm bear from one to three staminate flowers at the base.

Mr. K. K. Mackenzie has called my attention to Kükenthal's description of the latter species (under the name *Carex retrocurva* Dewey) in the Pflanzenreich. Here this peculiarity is noted in the following words but is not emphasized as a distinctive character: "Spiculae laterales 3–4 ♀ (basi floribus paucis ♂ vel squamis steriibus instructae)." As no mention of this character is made in Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora, nor in Gray's Manual, it seems desirable to direct attention to it.— W. DEW. MILLER, Plainfield, New Jersey.

GALAX APHYLLA INTRODUCED IN MASSACHUSETTS.— In the fall of 1917 while walking through woods in the northeastern part of Swampscott, Massachusetts, the writer found two clusters of round-heart-shaped, crenate-toothed, long-petioled shining leaves. Some of the leaves were sent to the Gray Herbarium where they were identified as "*Galax aphylla* L., the foliage of which is extensively used by florists." *Galax aphylla* is not native north of Virginia and in reference to the Swampscott plants which have established themselves among oak trees on dryish upland, Mr. M. L. Fernald writes, "I know of no other record of its attempting to become naturalized in New England." Several investigations since finding the *Galax* show the plants in thrifty condition as regards leaves, but no sign of bud or blossom has been seen.— MARTHA E. WARD, Lynn, Massachusetts.

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